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| 10/509,596 | 09/29/2004 | Mie Yoshimura | Q83591 | 8356 |
| 23373 7590 04/10/2008 SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037 | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | |
| PIZIALI, ANDREW T | | | | |
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| 1794 | | | | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/509,596

Applicant(s)

YOSHIMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew T. Piziali

Art Unit

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2007.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-11 and 13-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 11 and 13-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-10 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/10/2007
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's arguments presented 11/1/2007 are persuasive. The claim amendments filed 7/23/2007 have been entered. The specification amendment filed 9/12/2007 has been entered.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informality: The specification refers to Patent Documents 1-11, but the documents do not appear to be specifically mentioned. In addition, the specification improperly refers to claims.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over WO 98/46815 to Asano et al. (hereinafter referred to as Asano) (USPN 6,430,348 is cited as a translation document).

Regarding claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 9, Asano discloses an identifying marker attached as an identification target to a product or service, the identifying marker being characterized in that at least a portion of said identification target is formed by a planar arranged optical interference fibers being aligned parallel to a lengthwise direction, where each of the optical interference fibers comprises an alternate laminated body obtained by laminating layers of polymers with different refractive indexes in an alternating fashion (see entire document including Figures 1-6, column 2, lines 45-54, column 28, lines 10-26, column 32, lines 44-68, and column 35, lines 17-25). Asano discloses that the fibers may be in a woven (comprises fibers aligned in parallel to a lengthwise direction) fabric construction (column 22, lines 14-21, column 25, lines 29-36, and column 26, lines 1-45).

Asano does not appear to mention P polarized light or S polarized light, but considering that the identifying marker disclosed by Asano is identical to the claimed identifying marker, the identifying maker is inherently capable of being identified by P polarized light and S polarized light where the P polarized light and S polarized light are observed using a polarized plate for measurement of a wavelength and intensity curve of polarizing light passing through a slit of the polarizing plate oriented in the lengthwise direction of one of the optical interference fibers and a direction perpendicular thereto.

The Patent and Trademark Office can require applicants to prove that prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess characteristics of claimed products where claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes; burden of proof is on applicants where rejection based on inherency under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or on prima facie obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, jointly or alternatively, and Patent and Trademark Office's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products evidences fairness of this rejection, *In re Best, Bolton, and Shaw*, 195 USPQ 431 (CCPA 1977).

In the event that it is shown that Asano does not disclose the claimed invention with sufficient specificity, the invention is obvious because Asano discloses that claimed constituents (such as a substrate and a nonwoven fibrous body made of the claimed optical interference fibers) and discloses that they may be used together. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the claimed composite motivated by the expectation of successfully practicing the invention of Asano.

Regarding claim 3, Asano discloses that the layer thickness may be 0.02-0.3 micrometers for each layer of said alternate laminated body, and the count of layers may be 5-120 layers (see the paragraph bridging columns 3 and 4, and column 6, lines 26-41).

Regarding claim 4, Asano discloses that a protective layer may surround the alternate laminated body (see Figure 2).

Regarding claim 5, Asano discloses that the polymers with different refractive indexes of said alternate laminated body are designated as: polymer A as the polymer with the high refractive index and polymer B as the polymer with the low refractive index, (said polymer A)/(said polymer B) may be the combination of (polyethylene terephthalate having a metal sulfonate salt-containing dibasic acid component copolymerized at 0.3-10 mole percent with respect to the total dibasic acid component)/(polymethyl methacrylate with an acid value of 3 or greater) (see the paragraph bridging columns 6 and 7).

Regarding claim 8, Asano discloses that the identification marker may comprise, as an identifier, a portion wherein the optical interference fiber is used to construct a body of an identifiable size as a nonwoven, woven, knitted, embroidered fabric and/or paper (column 22, lines 14-21, column 25, lines 29-36, column 26, lines 1-45, column 28, lines 10-26, column 32, lines 44-59, and column 35, lines 17-25).

Regarding claim 9, Asano discloses that the fibrous body may be a mixture of different types of optical interference fibers having different wavelengths for interference light ranging from the infrared region to the ultraviolet region (column 22, lines 3-34 and column 27, lines 12-18).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 98/46815 to Asano as applied to claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 9 above, and further in view of US 2002/0016117 to Hamajima et al. (hereinafter referred to as Hamajima).

Asano does not appear to mention the fiber possessing an interior polymer layer, but Hamajima discloses that it is known in the optical interference fiber art to insert a 3-component polymer layer in the intermediate portion of an alternate laminate optical interference fiber as a reinforcing portion (see entire document including [0013], [0052] - [0055], and Figure 1(c)). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to insert a 3-component polymer layer in the intermediate portion of the alternate laminate optical interference fiber of Asano, as taught by Hamajima, because the intermediate section would reinforce the fiber.

7. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 98/46815 to Asano in view of US 2002/0016117 to Hamajima as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of USPN 4,419,479 to Springer.

Hamajima discloses that intermediate reinforcing polymer layer may comprise a polymer other than the polymer used to form the alternating layers ([0013]), but Hamajima does not appear to mention specific other polymers. Hamajima is silent with regards to specific other polymers, therefore, it would have been obvious to look to the prior art for conventional reinforcing polymers. Springer provides this conventional teaching showing that it is known in the reinforcing polymer art to include fine metal particles in any of a variety of reinforcing polymeric materials to provide the reinforcing polymer with superior abrasion resistance, temperature resistance, and/or impact strength (see entire document including column 1, lines 7-21, column 2, lines 6-10 and column 3, lines 33-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include fine metal particles in the reinforcing polymer, as taught by Springer, motivated by the expectation of

successfully practicing the invention of Hamajima and because the reinforcing polymer layer would possess superior abrasion resistance, temperature resistance, and/or impact strength.

8. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 98/46815 to Asano (as applied to claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 9 above).

Asano discloses that the identification target may have a colored or dyed section containing the optical interference fibers (column 32, lines 60-68). Asano also discloses that the fibers may be shortly cut staple fibers (column 34, lines 12-24). Asano does not appear to specifically mention ink-painting the fibers to form the color, but the examiner takes Official Notice that ink-painting is a known fiber coloring method. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to color the fibers by any known method, such as ink-painting, because it is within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known method of coloring on the basis of its suitability and desired characteristics.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 7/23/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the specification objections, the specification amendment filed 7/23/2007 was not entered (as a whole) for the reasons stated in the notice of non-compliance mailed 8/30/2007. The specification amendment filed 9/12/2007 was entered, but the amendment did not address all the portions of the specification that refer to the claims or address the Patent Documents 1-11 portions of the specification.

The applicant asserts that Asano does not teach or suggest the optical interference fibers being aligned parallel to a lengthwise direction, because Asano discloses a nonwoven embodiment. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Asano discloses that the fibers may be in a woven (some fibers aligned in parallel) fabric construction (column 22, lines 14-21, column 25, lines 29-36, and column 26, lines 1-45).

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated any new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew T. Piziali whose telephone number is (571) 272-1541. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Andrew T Piziali/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794